

They meant well, but they wanted to let someone else do what they themselves could have had a hand in doing.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. King was a man who believed that bigotry and hatred must be confronted, and he understood this one basic premise: those who will tolerate bigotry and hatred, they will do very little to change it. They will find reasons why they can't change bigotry and hatred when given the opportunity.

There is always an excuse. It won't be the Good Samaritan response: If I don't help people who are being discriminated against, who are being kicked off of jobs because they are LGBTQ, who can't get loans because of their ethnicity, because of religiosity—invidious religiosity, I might add. They are being barred, banned.

□ 1045

They won't look to see what is happening to them. What they will do is ask: What will happen to me if I step out there and try to help them?

I don't think they are persons of ill will. I think that they are persons who mean well. But I ask people to understand the context of this time by understanding and reviewing the context of the time that Dr. King lived in and review that letter from the Birmingham jail—the masterpiece—but also read the letter that he was responding to.

Those who will tolerate bigotry will do little to change it.

#### STUDENT LOAN DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, in today's Washington Post, there is a major story on the front page of the Style Section about a young woman name Sarah Pool.

One of the headlines says: "Sarah Pool, 31, has a baby and a job, and loves them both, but she fears she will be paying off student loans till the day she dies."

She got loans totaling \$60,000 but now owes \$69,000. She is quoted as saying: "I keep paying, but it is like pouring into a bucket with no bottom."

Mr. Speaker, for several years, I have been speaking out about how harmful the Federal student loan program has become for many, many hundreds of thousands of students and families around this country.

In May of 2015, I wrote an article for the Washington Examiner newspaper with ideas about how to bring down the cost of college. In that article, I quoted hedge fund manager James Altucher, who wrote: "We are graduating a generation of indentured students."

An Ohio University economist, Richard Vedder, wrote a book several years ago entitled "Going Broke By Degree."

In the February issue of Chronicles magazine, which will be out in just a few days, I have another article; and in

that article I say that student loan debt in the United States is now \$1.48 trillion. That incredible sum is a heavy drag on the economy and a burden on young people, and Federal intervention in education is the cause.

It wasn't always this way.

In June of 1965, I began working as a salesman at the Sears store in Knoxville, receiving a 10-cents-an-hour raise over my job as a bag boy at the A&P. At Sears, my wage was \$1.25 an hour. I was required to wear a suit and tie, and I was very proud of that job.

I worked full time that summer and usually around 20 hours a week after I began my freshman year at the University of Tennessee in late September.

After I had worked at Sears for 6 months—I didn't realize I had been there 6 months—I was called to the office for the first time. I was very concerned, to put it lightly. I met David Weaver, who was my same age, 18, at the escalator. I told him: I bet I was hit by one of those Hallmark shoppers—one of the mystery shoppers Sears had at the time. He told me he had just been called by a very angry woman to whom he had sold the wrong color of paint. David said that he was scared and that he had diabetes, and when he got too nervous, he would pass out. I can remember that conversation as if it happened yesterday.

Much to our relief, we had been called to the office so management could give us good news: because we had been working at Sears for 6 months, they were giving us a nickel-an-hour raise.

It shocks students at the University of Tennessee today when I tell them that tuition my freshman year was \$90 per quarter, \$270 for the academic year. By my senior year, it was \$405. I remember hearing our minority leader, Mr. HOYER, say that when he started at the University of Maryland, it was \$87 a semester. Almost no one left college in those days with debt unless they had bought a car or made some other major purchase. Students certainly did not go into debt for tuition because they could all work part time, as I did, and pay all their school expenses.

Now, over 44 million Americans carry student loan debt—some of those debts reaching into the six figures.

Readers Digest recently published an article in the December/January issue entitled "The Student Debt Racket." The authors quote one student who owes \$90,000 as saying: "My loans are a black cloud hanging over me. I am a student debt slave."

Colleges and universities began heavily promoting student loans in the late sixties and early seventies. They were able to tamp down opposition to tuition and fee increases by telling students: Don't worry, we will just get you a loan.

Then, because loans were available, many schools began raising tuition at two and three times the rate of inflation each year, and have continued to do so.

I remember reading an article about 3 years ago in The Post which said that student tuition had gone up 4½ times the rate of inflation since 1985. Now the cost of higher education has soared to such great heights that universities are bragging if they hold the annual increases to 2 or 3 percent. They never consider reductions, not even miniscule ones. Thus we have another example of how Big Government liberalism helps the few at the top while harming the many down below.

The Federal student loan program has made the owners of some loan servicing companies very wealthy and has been a boon to most college administrators and tenured professors; and all of this at great expense to students and their families.

When the Knoxville News Sentinel lists the highest paid people in east Tennessee each year, they are almost all at TVA or UT. Yet the pattern continues to repeat: Liberals find a very small group of people who are having trouble paying for something, then insist that the only solution is to let the Federal Government "help." But whenever the Federal Government subsidizes something, the costs simply explode because most of the incentives or pressures to hold costs down vanish.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would say this is why Mark Cuban, the Shark Tank star, has said: If you want to make college really expensive, make it free.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions and difficult times, with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

In these days, give wisdom to all Members, that they might execute their responsibilities to the benefit of all Americans.

Bless them, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ESPAILLAT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

## IN MEMORY OF ROCKY FAWCETT

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Lewis County Legislator Rocky Fawcett. Rocky was a dedicated public servant who never stopped believing in the potential of Lewis County. Rocky was involved in many local causes and organizations, such as the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, and the Lewis County Development Corporation.

To all who knew him, Rocky was intelligent, driven, and deeply devoted to public service. Simply put: Rocky Fawcett set the gold standard for what it means to be a legislator.

Rocky was a dear friend and he always greeted me with a huge smile and a hug during my many constituent outreach events throughout Lewis County.

I invite Members to join me in keeping his wife, Mary, and his family in your thoughts and prayers. May we continue to honor his memory by being passionate advocates for our communities in Lewis County and beyond.

## LET'S TAKE CARE OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater responsibility that we have than the health and well-being of America's children. The Children's Health Insurance Program has been a huge success. In just a few weeks, funding for this program will run out in my home State of Rhode Island.

This is a program that has provided health insurance to 9 million children from working families in this country, 27,000 children and pregnant women in my home State of Rhode Island. It has always been a bipartisan issue. This program has been a huge success. It brought the rate of uninsured children down from almost 14 percent when the program began to 4½ percent today.

And why haven't we reauthorized this program yet that ensures the health and well-being of America's children?

We just passed—or the Republicans just passed—a \$1.5 trillion tax cut for the richest people in this country, the biggest corporations, unpaid for. But we can't manage to find money to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program?

I urge the Republican leadership in this Chamber to bring a clean reauthorization bill to the floor so we can reauthorize this effective and important program and take care of America's children.

## WASHINGTON BUSINESSES GIVING BACK

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, we are already seeing the positive impact of tax reform. More than 100 businesses and corporations are giving back to their employees and their communities as a direct response to the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

This historic tax reform legislation has paved the way for a better American business environment, and hard-working people are benefiting from the contributions of major employers and service providers, including in my home State of Washington.

Boeing announced a total investment of \$300 million dedicated to corporate giving, employee training, and infrastructure improvement. Alaska Airlines provided \$1,000 bonuses for more than 20,000 employees. Washington Federal is increasing salaries by 5 percent for employees making under \$100,000, investing in training, technology upgrades, and making a \$5 million philanthropic contribution. Pacific Power has committed to passing the company's benefits on to their consumers, which include ratepayers in the Fourth Congressional District.

These benefits and tax relief will have a lasting effect on Washington

families, and I look forward to continuing to work toward bigger paychecks, more jobs, and a prosperous economy.

## COMPACT IMPACT RELIEF

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to reintroduce my Compact Impact Relief Act with my colleagues from Hawaii and the Northern Marianas as original cosponsors. Our bill would provide relief to Guam and other States and territories required by the Federal Government to provide local public services to more than 76,000 migrants under the Compacts of Free Association.

Guam remains the top destination for Compact migrants from the three freely associated States. Our island accommodates nearly 18,000 out of a population of just 175,000.

As the United States looks to renew the Compacts after 2023, Congress must increase mandatory Compact impact funding to affected jurisdictions like Guam. Congress should provide the funding level recommended by the Government Accountability Office, as I have called for repeatedly.

In the meantime, I hope this House will act on the practical policy changes included in my Compact Impact Relief Act.

## HIGHLIGHTING THE COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE OF SONIA WARSHAWSKI

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the courage and perseverance of Sonia Warshawski, one of the few remaining Holocaust survivors in the Kansas City community and a constituent of mine. Now 91 years old, as a Polish teenager, she was forced into concentration camps, ripped from her family, and even had to watch as her mother walked into the gas chamber.

Her life is being highlighted in a recent documentary showing in American movie theaters called "Big Sonia," co-directed by her granddaughter, Leah Warshawski. This beautiful film tells the story of her struggle and heartbreak and the power of love to overcome hate.

I have known Sonia for years as a friend, but also as a customer, as she runs the small tailoring business started by her husband, John, who is also a Holocaust survivor.

Sonia's story reminds us of the unspeakable evil that she and others in the Holocaust had to endure and that we must never forget today. But her story as a survivor also reminds us of humanity's beauty and kindness and the power to endure and overcome unspeakable tragedy.